CST collection during 2004-05 was around Rs. 15,100 crores. The Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers (EC) is presently deliberating upon the issue of phasing out of the CST and is expected to make a recommendation to the Central Government. The EC is deliberating upon the various options for compensating the revenue loss on account of phasing out of CST including giving the States larger share/powers in respect of taxation of services. Once the EC finalise its recommendations, the Central Government will take a view in this matter.

Ban on charitable trusts from External Commercial Borrowings

2942. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether charitable trusts are banned out of External Commercial Borrowings;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether Government are aware that with this charitable trusts especially in health care sector would be put to difficulties; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Under the External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) policy, Charitable Trusts are not eligible to raise ECB. However, a Charitable Trust if it is a Non-Government Organization and is engaged in micro-finance activities, is eligible to access ECB subject to guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India.

Setting up of Institute of Insurance Surveyors

2943. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Insurance Regulatory Development Authority has set up an Institute of Insurance Surveyors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Institute of Insurance Surveyors and Loss Assessors has been incorporated on 4th October 2005 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956. The main objects to be pursued by the institute are:

(1) To promote quality in profession of Loss Assessors through education and training facilitate introduction of best practices amongst its members and to disseminate technical information amongst its members to upgrade their skill and knowledge.

(2) To conduct Professional examinations relating to the profession of Surveyors and Loss Assessors.

(3) To promote research and studies in loss control and minimization techniques and measures and share the same with Insurance Industry and general public and to update its members on application of new technologies for improving service to the users and consumers

(4) To bring out guidance notes, instruction manuals, periodicals for the use and benefit of members and others connected with the profession of surveyors and loss assessors.

(5) To develop and administer code of conduct and ethics from time to time with the concurrence of the IRDA and ensure compliance of the same by its members and also ensure that the members maintain/adhere to high standards of integrity, transparency, discipline, and professional conduct.

Deterioration of Services in SBI Branch

2944. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the installation of new Core Banking Solution (CBS) in the State Bank of India, Sansadiya Soudh, New Delhi, the efficiency of the bank has deteriorated;

(b) whether the State Bank of India has received complaints from the customers regarding incorrect account statement, delay in credit of clearing cheques, incorrect passbook printing, display of incorrect balance of accounts in the ATM and long queues in the branch; and